

Education Governance

Vermont State Board of Education Retreat

June 20, 2016

Goals for this Afternoon

- Update on governance activity
- Next phases and the role of the SBE
- Alternative Structures
- Issues and complexities (small groups)
- Data and support needed (Board discussion)
- Tasks for AOE (Board discussion)

Governance Update

Since July 1, 2015



Voters in 39 towns approved unification of:

- 45 school districts in 10 SUs into
- 9 UUSDs
 - 4 Accelerated Mergers
 - 2 REDs
 - 2 UUSDs in a Side-by-Side Merger
 - 1 UUSD within an SU

... and 1 MUUSD



In addition ...

Voters in 11 towns in 2 more SUs
approved unification of 12 school districts
into 2 UUSDs on June 7



If those two June 7th votes stand, then voters will have approved unification of:

- 52 school districts into
- 12 unified systems

Which means that ...



The voters in ***over 19 % of all Vermont school districts*** have approved merger into a unified governance system
since July 1, 2015



In terms of students ...



Combined ADM



- 10 newly merged districts = **14,655.00**
- If add 2 June 7th affirmative votes = **20,746.09**

Combined ADM



- 10 newly merged districts = **14,655.00**
- If add 2 June 7th affirmative votes = **20,746.09**

Which means that ...



24 % of all PK-12 students
will live in a unified school district
that was approved by the voters
since July 1, 2015



If include 2 previous mergers under
Acts 153 and 156

Total = **23,680.08** ADM

27% of all PK-12 students



And ... if include the 11 existing SDs
(*e.g.*, Colchester, Springfield)

Total = **42,053.77** ADM

48% of all Vermont PK-12 students
will live in a unified school district



What's Next?

Phase 2 Voluntary Mergers &
the Statewide Governance Plan



A. Voluntary Mergers

Incentives for two more phases:

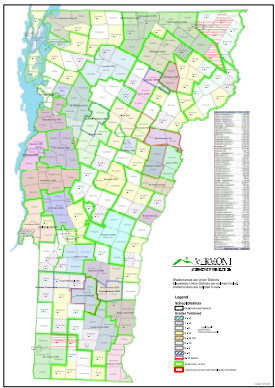
- Incorporating earlier merger legislation
 - Phase 2 (REDS & RED Variations – Acts 153 & 156)
- Creating new options:
 - Phase 3 (“Conventional Mergers” - Act 46, Sec. 7)



B. Non Merging Districts

By 11/30/17

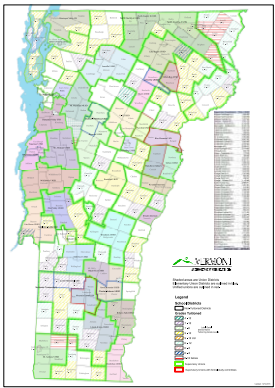
- Conduct self evaluation
- Meet with other districts
- Submit proposal individually or jointly to:
 - *Stay the Same*
 - *Merge*
 - *Work Together*



C. Secretary's Proposal

By 6/1/18

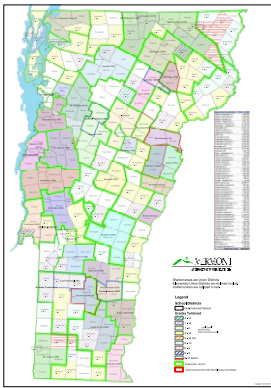
- Considers the nonmerging districts' proposals
- Reviews all approved voluntary mergers
- Publishes a *proposed* plan to merge districts and / or change SU boundaries
 - To the *extent necessary* to meet State goals
 - including no socioeconomic isolation
 - To the *extent possible / practicable* in the region



D. SBE's Final Statewide Plan

By 11/30/18

- Considers proposals (nonmerging districts & Secretary)
- Takes testimony or requests information as needed
- Develops and issues a final plan that:
 - Merges districts
 - Changes SU boundaries



Final Statewide Plan

- Makes changes to the *extent necessary* to meet State goals
- Makes changes to the *extent practicable*, given the realities of geography and population
- *Preserves* each current district's existing decision to *pay tuition or operate* schools
- Interstate school districts, CTE districts, and recently merged unified union districts are grandfathered



“Alternative Structures”



VT Education Goals (Act 46)

To encourage and support local decisions and actions that:

1. provide ***substantial equity*** in the quality and variety of educational opportunities
2. lead students to *meet or exceed* ***State Education Quality Standards***
3. ***maximize operational efficiencies*** through greater flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources
 - goal of increasing district-level student-to-staff ratios
4. promote ***transparency and accountability***
5. are at a cost that parents, voters, & taxpayers “***value***”



In Addition ...

All changes should be mindful not to
geographically isolate
a district that ***would be a natural partner***

Especially if it would result in
socioeconomic isolation



Meeting VT Goals

Goals are best met by a school district that:

- Is *responsible* for education of PK-12 students
- Is a supervisory district (single district SU)
- Has 900+ ADM
- Is organized in one of the 4 most common structures



“Alternative Structures”

In some regions – SD with 900+ ADM is:

1. Not possible – *e.g.*:
 - Merger with < 900 ADM
 - Unique operating/tuitioning structure(s)
2. Not best model to achieve State educational goals





Requirements Include ...

- Supervisory District w/900+ ADM
 - **not possible**
 - **not best model** to achieve statewide ed goals in region
[Act 46, Secs. 5(c) and 10]
- Alt Structure = **best means** to meet Goals in region *[Sec. 8(b)]*
- Proposal **demonstrates how** Alternative Structure supports ability to meet or exceed each Goal *[Sec. 9(3)(B)]*
- Proposal **identifies detailed actions** to continue to improve performance in connection with Goals *[Sec. 9(3)(C)]*

Issues and Complexities



What are the Key Considerations?

What data will give you the information
you need?

Does the timing of the proposal matter?

1A	1B
1C	1D

Scenario #1: Stay as We Are!

1A	1B
1C	1D

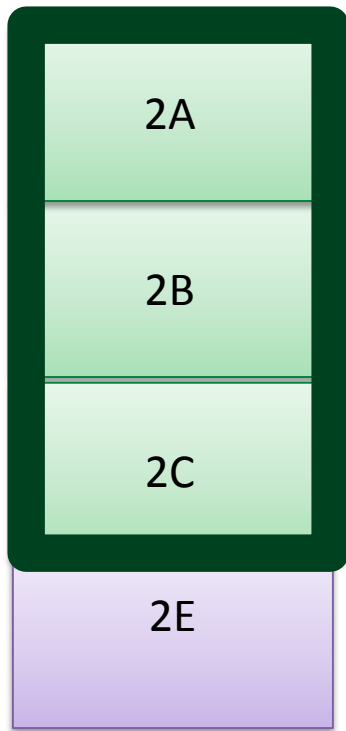
Districts A, B, C and D:

- Are members of Union School District E for some grades
- Have the same operating / tuitioning pattern for all other grades

A-E are only members of SU #1

Study C'ee concludes: Goals met best by current structure

Scenario #2: SU Boundaries



Districts A, B, and C:

- Members of Union School District D
- Each has the same operating/ tuitioning pattern for all other grades

Study C'ee proposes to:

- Merge into single PK-12 district
- Become a Supervisory District (SD = a single district SU)

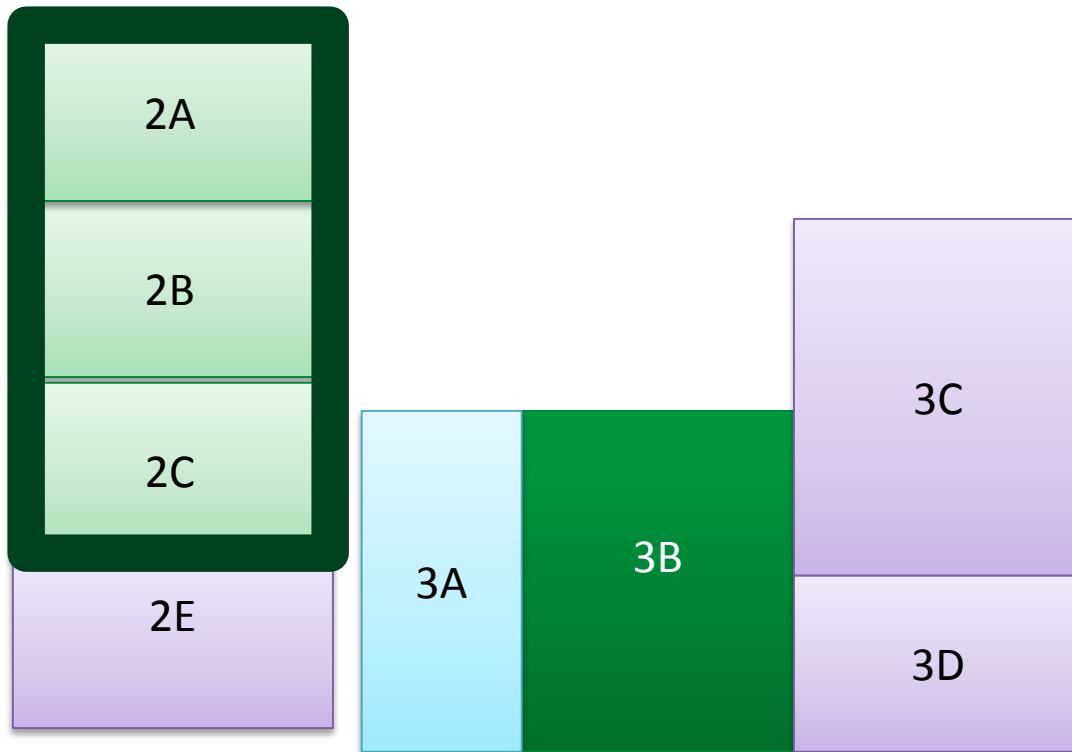
District E wants to:

- Maintain current structure
- Stay in SU 2

Small Group Discussions

Scenarios # 2.1 – 2.4

Small Group Discussions



SU 2:

A - D Study C'ee:

- Single PK-12 district
- Be own SD (not 2E)

E wants to stay in SU 2

SU 3: No proposal yet

**For each Scenario: Districts 2A-2D
propose to merge into a single UUSD
that is its own SD**



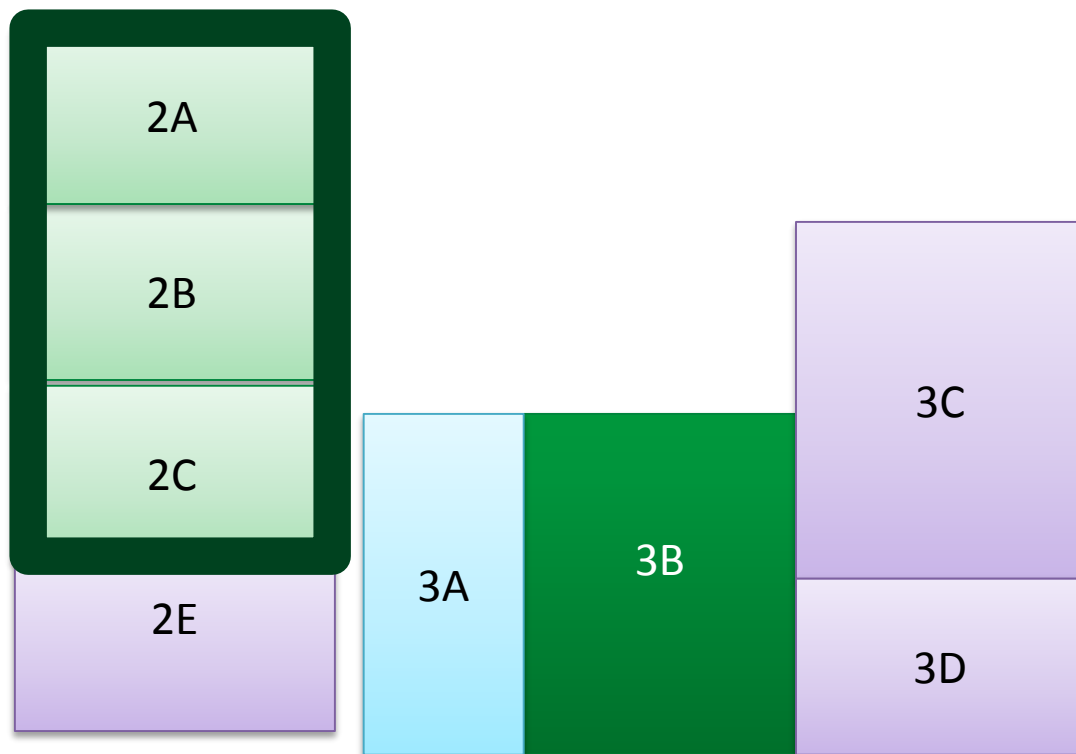
What are the Key Considerations?

What data will give you the information
you need?

Does the timing of the proposal matter?

Scenario # 2.1

Do Neighbors Matter?



(same scenario)

SU 2:

A - D Study C'ee:

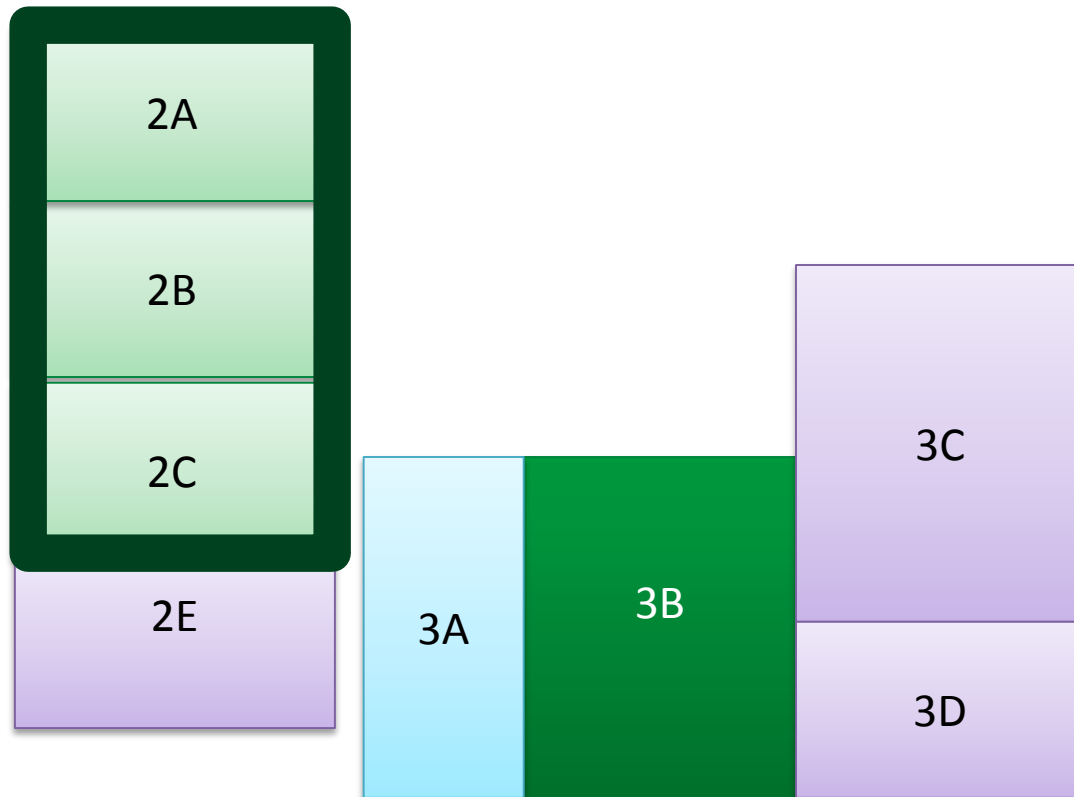
- Single PK-12 district
- Be own SD (not 2E)

E wants to stay in SU 2

SU 3: No proposal yet

Scenario # 2.2

Does ADM Matter?



(same scenario)

SU 2:

A - D Study C'ee:

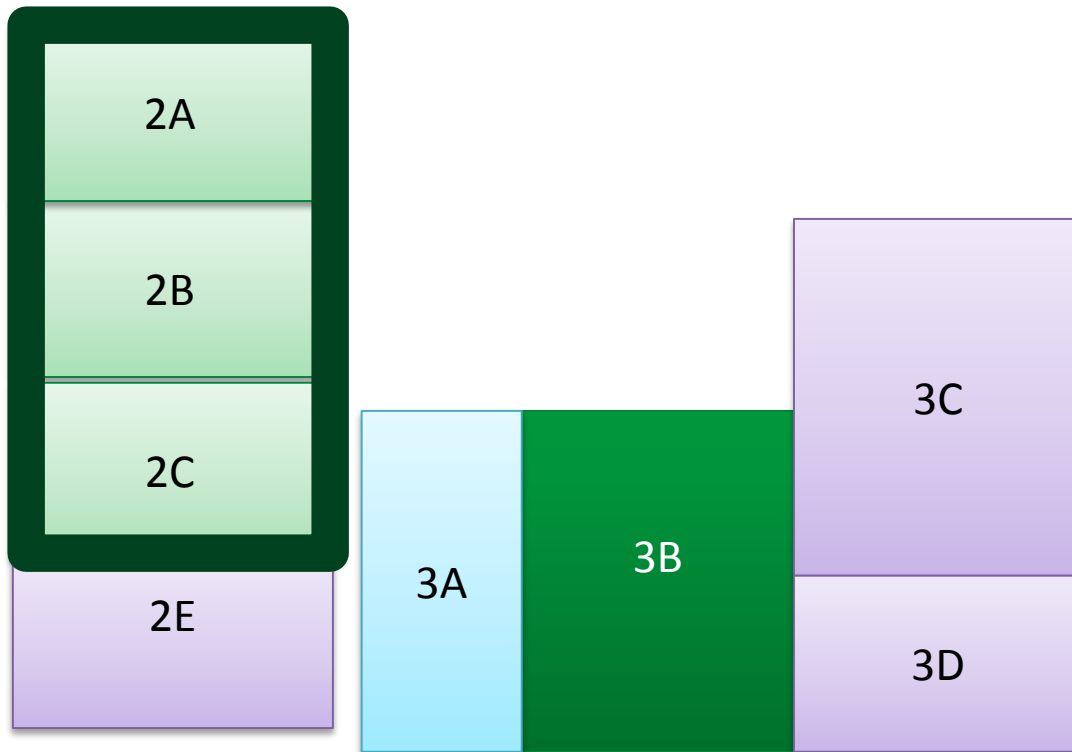
- Single PK-12 district
- Be own SD (not 2E)

E wants to stay in SU 2

SU 3: No proposal yet

Scenario # 2.3

Does Distance Matter?



(same scenario)

SU 2:

A - D Study C'ee:

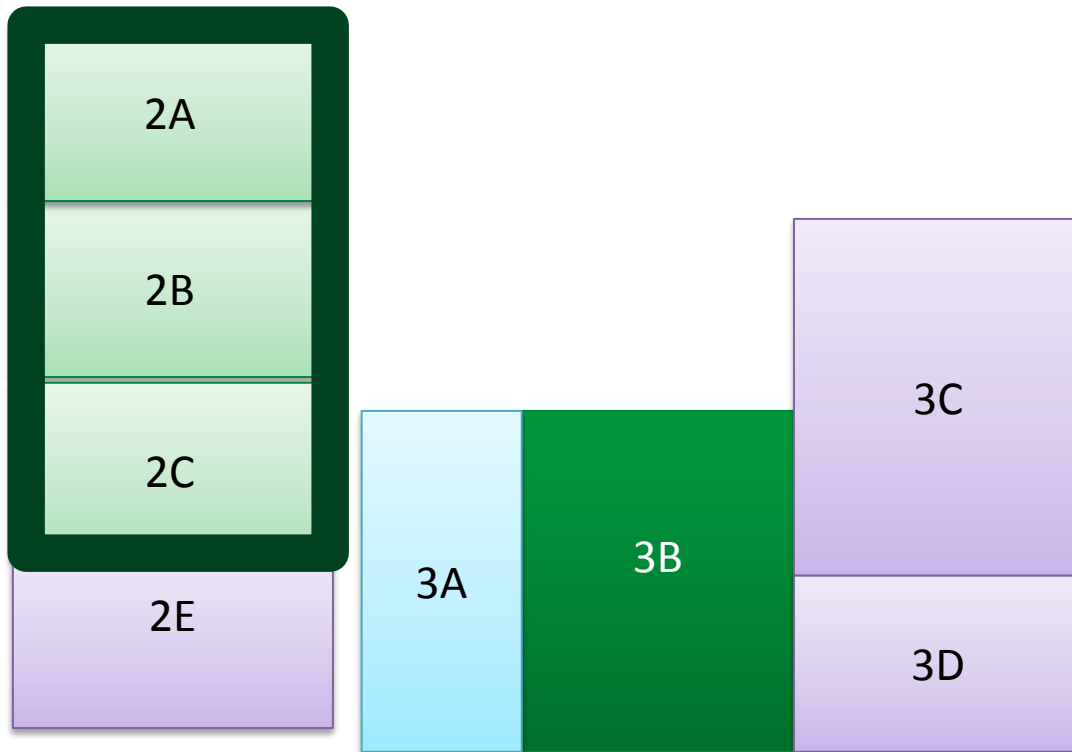
- Single PK-12 district
- Be own SD (not 2E)

E wants to stay in SU 2

SU 3: No proposal yet

Scenario # 2.4

Does Poverty Matter?



(same scenario)

SU 2:

A - D Study C'ee:

- Single PK-12 district
- Be own SD (not 2E)

E wants to stay in SU 2

SU 3: No proposal yet



What are the Key Considerations?

What data will give you the information
you need?

Does the timing of the proposal matter?

Scenario # 3

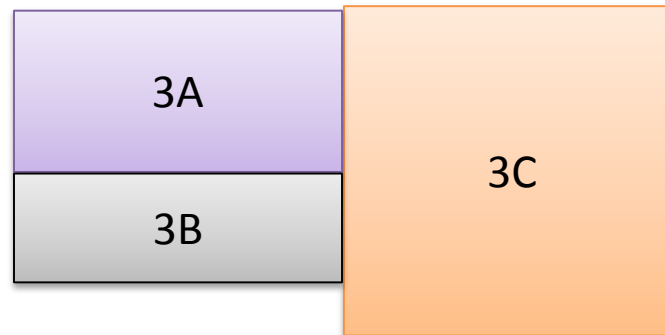
SU 3 wants to be a 3-district SU

What do you need to know about:

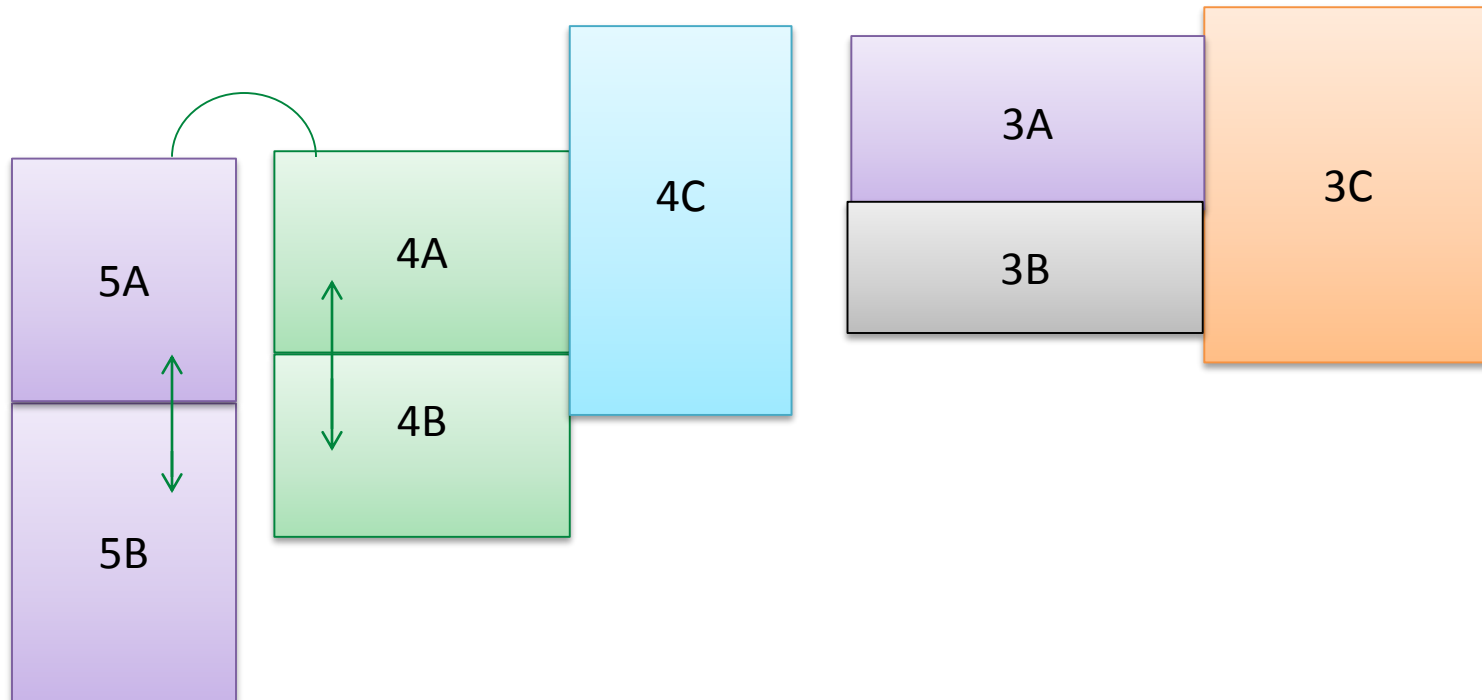
- Each of these districts?
- About the SU?

What do you need to know about the surrounding districts and SUs?

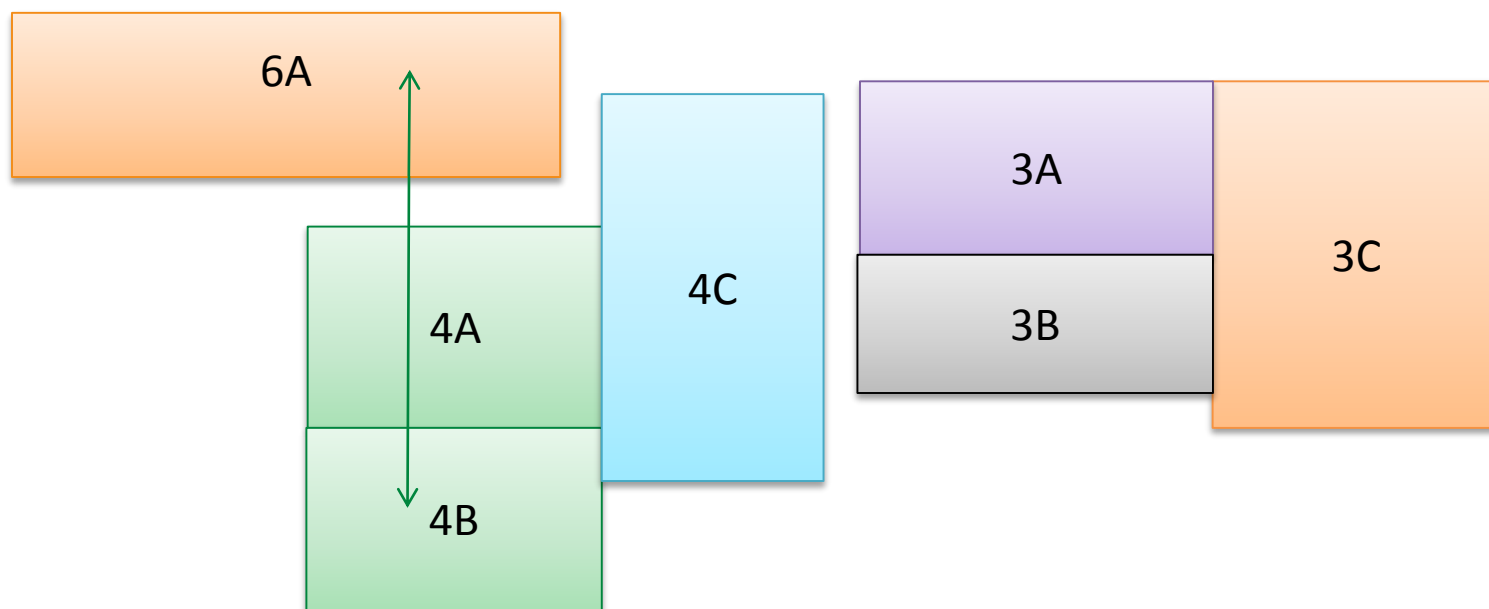
What else do you need to know??



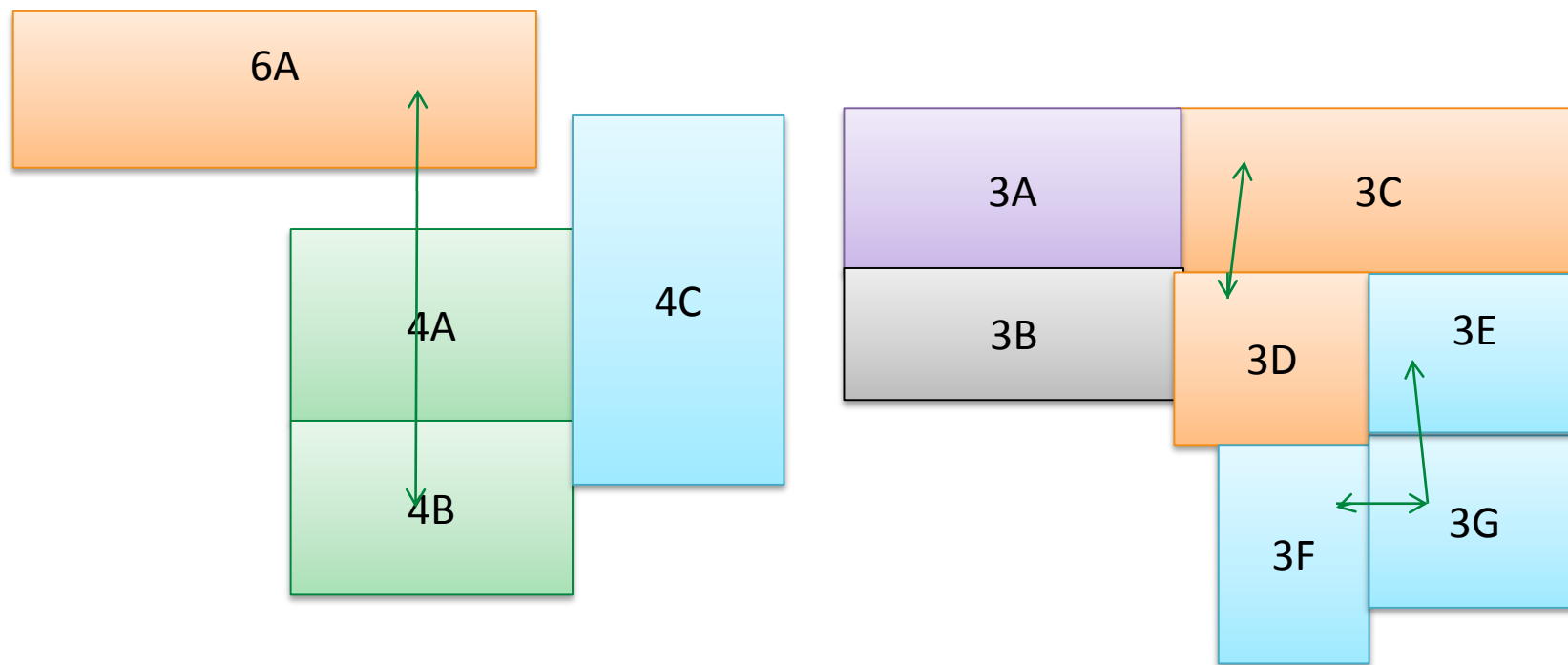
Scenario # 3.1



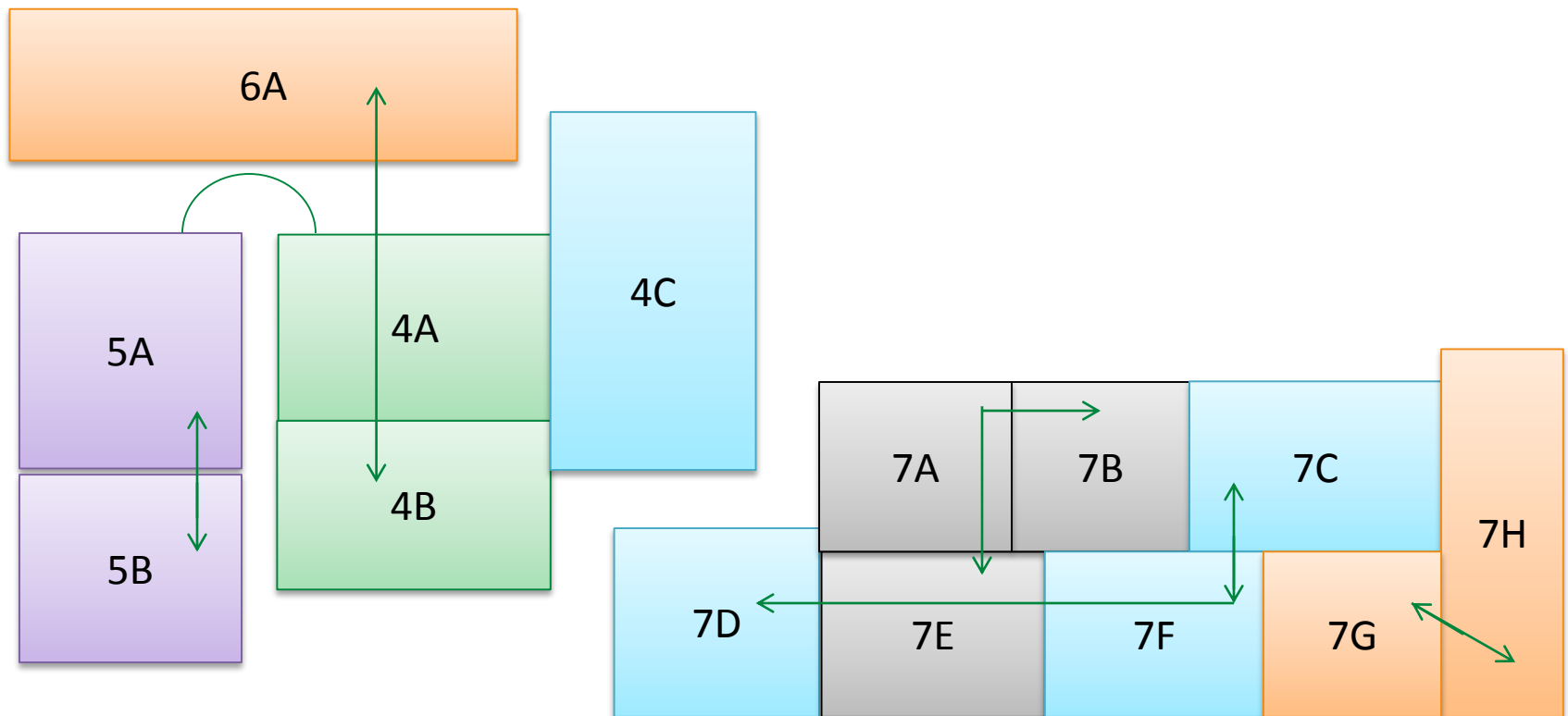
Scenario #3.2



Scenario #3.3



Scenario #4





What are the Key Considerations?



What are the
Key Considerations?

**What data will give you the information
you need?**



What are the
Key Considerations?

What data will give you the information
you need?

Does the timing of the proposal matter?

What can the AOE do to help?



What are the Key Considerations?

What data will give you the information
you need?

Does the timing of the proposal matter?